

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (new) An article of manufacture, comprising:

- a) a first panel;
- b) a second panel adjoining the first panel;
- c) a sealant material that is free of a photoinitiator over the first panel and the second panel; the sealant material being at least partially cured prior to coating; the sealant material including:
 - i. an effective amount of an epoxy resin, the effective amount of epoxy resin being up to about 80% by weight of the sealant material,
 - ii. an effective amount of one or more rheology modifiers, the one or more rheology modifiers including an acrylate;
 - iii. an effective amount of a curing agent, an accelerator or both, the effective amount of the curing agent, the accelerator or both being up to about 7% by weight of the sealant material;
 - iv. a filler at least a portion of the filler being calcium carbonate; and
 - v. a hydrocarbon;
- d) a layer of primer over the sealant; and
- e) a layer of paint over the primer.

Claim 16 (new) An article of manufacture, comprising:

- a) a first panel and a second panel of an automotive vehicle;
- b) a sealant material over the first panel and the second panel and being employed by itself and without any separately fabricated support substrate; the sealant material being at least partially cured prior to coating; the sealant material including:
 - i. an effective amount of an epoxy resin, the effective amount

- of epoxy resin being up to about 80% by weight of the sealant material,
- ii. an effective amount of an epoxy/elastomer hybrid, the effective amount of epoxy/elastomer hybrid being up to about 40% by weight of the sealant material, the epoxy/elastomer hybrid having about 1:3 to 3:1 parts of epoxy to elastomer;
- iii. an effective amount of a rheology modifier other than an ethylene vinyl acetate and including an acrylic, the effective amount of rheology modifier being up to about 40% by weight of the sealant material;
- iv. an effective amount of a curing agent, the effective amount of curing agent being up to about 7% by weight of the sealant material, the curing agent including an amine; and
- v. about 40 to about 60 % of a mineral filler, wherein the sealant material is substantially free of a photoinitiator.

Claim 17 (new) An article of manufacture, comprising:

- a) a first metal automotive vehicle panel selected from aluminum, steel or reinforced plastic;
- b) a second automotive vehicle panel selected from aluminum, steel or reinforced plastic adjoining the first panel;
- c) a sealant material that is substantially free of a photoinitiator; the sealant material being employed by itself and without any separately fabricated support substrate; over the first panel and the second panel; the sealant material being at least partially cured prior to coating and including:
 - i. about 10 to about 50 parts by weight of an epoxy resin;
 - ii. an effective amount of a rheology modifier, the effective amount of rheology modifier including an acrylate;
 - iii. an effective amount of curing agent, the effective amount of curing agent being up to about 7 parts by weight the sealant and

- including an amine;
- iv. about 40 to about 60 parts by weight of a filler;
- v. a hydrocarbon; and
- vi. an oxide;
- d) a layer of primer over the sealant material; and
- e) a layer of paint over the primer.

Claim 18 (new) The article of claim 15, wherein the sealant is substantially free of ethylene vinyl acetate.

Claim 19 (new) The article of claim 16, wherein the sealant is substantially free of ethylene vinyl acetate.

Claim 20 (new) The article of claim 17, wherein the curing agent is an amine.

Claim 21 (new) The article of claim 16, wherein the epoxy resin is present in an amount of about 10 to about 50 % by weight, and the epoxy/elastomer hybrid is present in an amount of about 10 to about 30 %.

Claim 22 (new) The article of claim 17, wherein the filler is a mineral filler.

Claim 23 (new) The article of claim 15, wherein the sealant is self leveling at elevated temperatures for providing a smooth paintable surface.

Claim 24 (new) The article of claim 16, wherein the sealant is self leveling at elevated temperatures for providing a smooth paintable surface.

Claim 25 (new) The article of claim 17, wherein the sealant is self leveling at elevated temperatures for providing a smooth paintable surface.

Claim 26 (new) The article of claim 15, wherein the curing agent is an amidoamine.

Claim 27 (new) The article of claim 15, wherein the curing agent is an a polyamine.

Claim 28 (new) The article of claim 15, wherein the curing agent is a cycloaliphatic amine.

Claim 29 (new) The article of claim 15, wherein the curing agent is selected from an aliphatic or aromatic amine or their respective adducts.

Claim 30 (new) The article of claim 16, wherein the partial cure is effected using an acid cure for inducing homopolymerization on or within the material.

Claim 31 (new) The article of claim 16, wherein the partial cure is effected using a liquid for effectuating the initiation of a condensation reaction.

Claim 32 (new) The article of claim 16, wherein the epoxy/elastomer hybrid includes a blend of an epoxy and a thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 33 (new) The article of claim 16, wherein the epoxy/elastomer hybrid includes a blend of an epoxy and a mixture of a thermosetting elastomer and a thermoplastic elastomer.

Claim 34 (new) The article of claim 15 wherein the acrylate is ethylene methacrylate.

Claim 35 (new) The article of claim 17 wherein the acrylate is ethylene methacrylate.